



***Embassy of the United States of America***  
*Port Louis, Mauritius*  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Mauritian Participant in African Women's Entrepreneurship Program in the U.S.**

**Port Louis, July 15, 2013:** U.S. Embassy Port Louis is sponsoring Mrs. Sadhna Sokhal to participate in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) "African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP)," from July 20 to August 10, 2013 in the United States.

The three-week "African Women's Entrepreneurship Program" seeks to equip African businesswomen with the tools and opportunities to accelerate the growth of their businesses, become leaders in their communities, and drive social and economic progress in Africa. The project is designed to introduce the political, economic and social factors that influence and encourage the development of private enterprise in the U.S.; discuss how women and other disadvantaged groups have overcome societal barriers, raised capital, and developed sound business plans that result in successful entrepreneurship; highlight the contributions of women to local and national economies and technology development ; and illustrate the essential role of non-governmental and grassroots organizations in supporting women's professional development and empowerment.

The program will begin in Chicago, Illinois, with an overview of U.S. system of government and programs supporting women's entrepreneurship. The participants will be introduced to marketing and communication skills through a workshop before proceeding to sector visits. For the sector visits, the group will be split in three teams and travel to three different cities to experience, among other things, networking opportunities and volunteerism in the U.S. Mrs. Sokhal, Managing Director, Cutting Works (Mauritius) Ltd. and Legem Limited, involved in the jewellery sector, will travel to Los Angeles, California. The training groups will then travel to New York where additional workshops and visits are scheduled. The final leg of the program will take place in Washington, D.C., where the visitors will be introduced to the federal government's role in supporting private enterprise and the U.S. assistance to AGOA countries. Mrs. Sokhal and the other participants will take part in an advocacy and social entrepreneurship workshop and learn to develop their entrepreneurship skills.

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